

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/799,133

Applicant(s)

ITO, KAZUNARI

Examiner

Art Unit

Henok G. Heyi

2627

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 09/05/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 3-7, renumbered 1-6, respectively.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                      |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____    | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                               |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|  | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Allowable Subject Matter*

1. *The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:*

The prior art of record considered as a whole fails to teach or suggest "A Carousel changer " as claimed in claim 1, comprising the **"a comparator comparing the width of said recessed portion and the width of said raised portion adjacent to said recessed portion; and "a controller controlling said motor based on the ratio of the width of said recessed portion to the width of said raised portion obtained by a comparator."**

The closest prior art of record, Sakurai et al (5,293,362), teaches all that is claimed but fails to teach the above noted allowable feature.

See detail below:

Regarding claim 1, a carousel changer (see Fig. 8 and an optical disc playback device of the so called "carousel" type, see Abstract), comprising: a turntable provided with a plurality of trays around its rotating shaft, said trays each carrying a disk thereon (a disc transport turntable which is adapted to rotated on a tray, col 4 line 45); a motor rotating said turntable (a motor for driving the disc transport turntable col 3 line 45); a rib formed annularly at said turntable, said rib including a plurality of count areas each for identifying one of said trays and a plurality of stop areas for stopping the rotation of said turntable, said stop areas alternated with said count areas, each of said count and stop areas including a plurality of recessed portions and a plurality of raised portions (axially

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downwardly projecting annular rib provided with a set of notches for each disc-holding section of the turntable, each set of notches comprising a central position-determining notch and disc number-indicating notches, see col 4 line 50), said plurality of recessed portions including an internal recessed portion and a boundary recessed portion, said boundary recessed portion formed at the boundary between said count area and said stop area, said plurality of raised portions including an internal raised portion adjacent to the internal recessed portion and a boundary raised portion adjacent to the boundary recessed portion, a ratio of a width of said boundary recessed portion to a width of said boundary raised portion being different from a ratio of a width of said internal recessed portion to a width of said internal raised portion a sensor detecting the width of said recessed portions and said raised portions (a single detection system, col 6 line 6); a comparator comparing the width of said recessed portion and the width of said raised portion adjacent to said recessed portion; and a controller controlling said motor (controller circuit, see Fig. 8 and the controller controls the position-determining notches whose dimension is greater than the dimension of the spaces between the notches that indicate the number assigned to each of the disc-holding sections, col 4 line 58) based on the ratio of the width of said recessed portion to the width of said raised portion obtained by said comparator detected by said sensor.

*Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."*

### Contact

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Henok G. Heyi whose telephone number is (571) 270-1816. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 8:30 to 6:00 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hoa Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-7579. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

HGH

HOA T. NGUYEN  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

10/14/07